

Dear Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica, and  
Representative Toni Walker,

My name is Cecilia Schlossberg and I was one of the first students to go through the magnet schools. I began at Montessori Magnet when I was in first grade then I went to the Metropolitan Learning Center in 6<sup>th</sup> grade until the end of high school with the second graduating class. I would not trade my experiences in those magnet schools for anything. Montessori is a wonderful way for students to learn, which is normally inaccessible for many families. I loved it so much that I became a Montessori teacher. I chose to go to the Metropolitan Learning Center because I was interested in other cultures. I learned so much in my years there and it helped me decide to study sociology in college. My sisters also attended magnet schools and they would agree that their magnet school education prepared them for college and helped them thrive. Students need a choice to keep schools accountable. We need a diverse student body so we can all learn from each other. We need schools with a variety of themes that students and families can choose from to fit everyone's needs. Magnet schools are also very involved in their community by cleaning up the neighborhood, providing resources, community gardens, and connecting with the community. With anything, the magnet school system could use some improvements, but taking it away all together or defunding it would not be the solution. Magnet schools continue to need funding and support to continue to make progress with education in Connecticut.

Thank you,  
Cecilia